

a Harvard scientist, decided to use cheese as a model to research how small microbial communities interact; she focused on the composition of cheese rinds.

Her first contact in the cheese business was Mateo Kehler, who taught her to make cheese and then helped her reach out to more than 100 other producers for samples. The response was overwhelming. "I don't think she realized how excited the artisan cheese industry was going to be," Mr. Kehler said.

In 2014, Dr. Dutton published her findings in the journal *Cell*. Working with Benjamin Wolfe, a postdoctoral researcher, she reported that the environment (cows, cheese caves, pastures) and methods (washing, salting, managing acidity) were as important to the development of cheese rinds, if not more so, than the ingredients.

This was a revelation. With this new scientific proof in hand, the Kehlers stopped adding starter cultures to Winnimere, one of their most popular raw-milk cheeses. "What we were adding wasn't growing, and when we stopped adding that, the cheese ripened more gracefully and deliciously," Mateo Kehler said.

Their pasteurized cheeses, though, still needed starters because pasteurization kills bacteria both good and bad for cheese. So they began making starter cultures from bacteria in their own milk supply.

Besides ending their reliance on big business, this has allowed the brothers to create a cheese that can come only from a singular place: Greensboro, Vt.

An on-site laboratory has its perks. In addition to having staff members who deeply understand microbiology, Jasper Hill Farm has become a magnet for researchers near and far. Now working there are an engineering intern from Brittany, France; a local microbiologist; and Panos C. Lekkas, a food microbiologist who has investigated the best ways to feed, tend and milk a cow for cheese production.

Dr. Lekkas, who was hired in November to work full time at Jasper Hill, collaborates with Dr. Dutton, now at the University of California, San Diego, and with Dr. Wolfe, who leads a microbiology laboratory at Tufts University.

In addition to helping improve food safety procedures at the 85-person Jasper Hill Farm, Dr. Lekkas is overseeing the development of a new cheese—a French Camembert style that for now the team is calling Wild Moses.

Dr. Lekkas was told that it takes eight months to bring a new cheese to market. "Mateo wants me to do it in three," he said. With science comes speed.

In order to make a soft pasteurized cheese that does not rely on corporate additives, the scientists sampled 300 promising strains of yeast and bacteria, all pulled from milk from Jasper Hill's own 250 cows.

What makes a homegrown starter promising? Sometimes it's the color of the microbes in a petri dish, but smell, too, can be telling. The group sniffed the samples and noted any pleasing aromas: Play-Doh, Concord grapes, tomato juice, clams, Kraft American Singles. Dr. Wolfe's lab ran a full genomic sequencing on the 15 top contenders, which will provide a blueprint for understanding how these strains are related to, or differ from, other cultures in the cheese world.

Making funky cheese is tricky, even for scientists. "There are subtle variations in flavor and aroma that you perceive in cheese," Dr. Wolfe said. "We want to understand what drives that variation." With Dr. Wolfe's genomic data, the team can track the microbes through the entire cheese-making process.

In November, the first batch of cheese was produced using five strains from the original

15 parent cultures—two yeast-based and three bacterial. New batches are being made every two weeks using different combinations, and every 10 days, each will be tasted to see whether it is on target for the "deliciousness factor," Jasper Hill's zero-to-10 grading system.

Seven or above is pretty good. Eight is out of this world. Tens are likely to be bestowed only outside the farm: Jasper Hill's Harbison cheese recently took Super Gold at the World Cheese Awards in Spain.

"I will be happy with a seven," Dr. Lekkas said.

#### MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION INTO NATO

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Senate's historic vote to ratify Treaty 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro. This represents an important step forward in Montenegro's bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO.

Maine has strong ties to Montenegro through the National Guard's State Partnership Program, which pairs State National Guards with partner nations around the world. Both parties forge an enduring relationship over the years through training exercises, military-to-military engagement, and security cooperation activities. These relationships are critical to our national security; they improve the capacity of friendly militaries, enhance our interoperability as allies, and allow us to promote our values in emerging nations. Furthermore, they provide members of the Guard with unique opportunities that make them more skilled military professionals and more experienced citizens.

The Maine National Guard partnered with Montenegro in December 2006, just 6 months after Montenegro declared its independence. In the decade since, the Maine National Guard has advised and assisted Montenegro as the young nation has transformed its military, transitioning to an all-volunteer force and contributing troops to the coalition fighting in Afghanistan. This relationship has expanded beyond the military dimension: the Maine Marine Patrol has trained with the Montenegrin marine police, and Mainers have worked with numerous Montenegrin governmental agencies to improve their disaster preparedness and response. Through numerous joint exercises each year in both Maine and Montenegro, Mainers have developed close, lasting relationships with their Montenegrin counterparts.

Montenegro joined the State Partnership Program expressly as a means of achieving their desired accession to NATO. The Senate's ratification of Montenegro's membership bid reflects the hard work and enormous growth that Montenegro has achieved in the last 10 years. Mainers should be proud of the support and training that they have offered during this time. Maine stands beside Montenegro as it takes a major step toward NATO membership,

pleased to continue our partnership in the future.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to join the American people in celebrating Women's History Month. I would like to begin that celebration by paying homage to several women whose ingenuity and inventions have shaped modern society, but who, like innumerable women throughout history, have not received the credit or recognition they are due.

Katherine Blodgett is a good place to start. In 1935, she invented the first transparent glass that eliminated distortion and glare. Before her, glass contained small bubbles and inclusions that was suitable for windows, but little else. Her method of producing and cutting glass revolutionized the material and is the reason we have camera lenses, microscopes, and eyeglasses today. Without her pioneering work, our ability to see and our ability to look into the universe would be degraded.

In 1942, the actress Hedy Lamarr and a partner were granted a U.S. patent for a secret communication system that involved manipulating radio frequencies to form an unbreakable code to prevent classified messages from being intercepted. The significance of her invention was not fully realized until the 1960s, when it was used by naval ships during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We were able to navigate that perilous nuclear threat successfully in part because of her self-taught inventiveness and skill. Lamarr's coded communications system has been used by numerous military agencies since.

Just 2 years later, in 1944, Grace Hopper made her own kind of history, becoming what many consider to be one of the world's first computer scientists. She invented the compiler that translated written language into computer code and coined the terms "bug" and "debugging." Fifteen years later, she led the team that developed COBOL, one of the very first programming languages.

More recently, in 1965, Stephanie Kwolek invented Kevlar. We know Kevlar best as the material used to manufacture bulletproof vests, protecting our police officers and first responders in their greatest moments of crisis, but Kevlar is widely considered to be one of the strongest, most durable materials ever invented and has become a critical component in the manufacturing of airplanes, boats, cars, and bridge cables.

I pause to honor these great inventors and scientists because their names should be familiar, but they aren't. As long as toxic, gender-role stereotypes persist, these women serve as important examples that such stereotypes are hollow and wrong. Women have been serving on the frontlines of war, science, and invention since long before men "allowed" them.

These women and others are part of our untold history. You will rarely hear them discussed in American classrooms, and you will seldom find their stories printed in textbooks. Most people wouldn't even recognize their names; yet our lives and fortunes have been shaped by them. Every day, men go to work protected by Kevlar vests, live their daily lives with the benefit of eyeglasses, or boot up their laptop computer using the devices and tools women gave them. That is both the majesty and tragedy of women's history: it is inextricable and powerful and entirely undervalued.

This Women's History Month should not pass without each and every one of us at the very least taking the time to acknowledge and appreciate the women of history who helped to invent modern society, who fought alongside men in every war, who gave us more complete rights and equality, who endured the habitual and everyday scorn of sexism—and who did so generation after generation without accolade or recognition.

Perhaps the best way to honor the past is to secure the future. The denizens of women's history didn't endure systemic misogyny or work so hard to change our world so that we would peer backward and applaud. They did so with the hope we would look forward and make progress.

We still have a long way to go, but we have made progress. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, being a woman is no longer considered a "preexisting condition" that warrants higher premiums and deductibles. Also thanks to the Affordable Care Act, preventative services for women—like mammograms, cervical cancer screenings, and prenatal care—are covered by insurance companies. Today more than 48 million American women take advantage of that.

Thanks to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, women have extended protection in cases of wage discrimination. The Lilly Ledbetter Act finally recognized that, when pay discrimination occurs, it is not a single event, but a chronic and repeated offense that inflicts ongoing damage with each and every substandard paycheck. This simple and commonsense recognition has allowed women to seek justice against the kind of economic disenfranchisement that has plagued generations.

Progress, however, does not have its own autopilot button. We must be its stewards and its champions. We must be its agents. We must protect it actively, each and every day, or else we will be complicit in its loss.

I am talking about women's reproductive rights. A woman's right to make her own decisions is under threat today. Her body is her body. It is not ours, and it certainly is not the government's. *Roe v. Wade* decided that in 1973, yet 44 years later, the Federal Government is run by a party that uses every tool at its disposal to chip away at reproductive rights. Whether it is

State policies to limit the types of buildings abortions can be performed in or the threat to defund Planned Parenthood, women's rights are under attack.

Let's be clear that Federal funding for abortion services is already banned under the Hyde Amendment. Today's witch hunt against Planned Parenthood is not substantive in nature; it is a thinly-veiled attempt to prolong a culture war with the hope of assuaging far-right voters. Women's reproductive rights deserve more than to be treated as a political punchline. Reproductive rights were hard-won by centuries of activism and pain, and we—all Members of this Chamber—must vow this month and every month to honor that with our votes and with our voices. We must vow not to let women's reproductive rights be diminished on our watch.

It is 2017, and still, women are expected to be everything simultaneously, all while they are refused the tools and the freedom to balance such difficult demands. It is 2017, and still, families—mothers most of all—are too often forced to choose between parenthood and economic security, between recovering from childbirth and their career. No woman, no matter what her line of work or Zip Code may be, should be forced to make such an impossible decision. It is our job to pass legislation to ensure no woman has to.

Even with the Lilly Ledbetter legislation, women today are paid, on average, just 77 cents for every dollar men receive for performing the same work. That gap is even worse for women of color: African-American women only earn 64 cents to the dollar, while Latina women earn only 55 cents. That is a problem begging to be solved by Congress. That is a problem for all of us. Women are powerful economic engines in this country, and if we continue to stand idly by while their work is underpaid and undervalued, we will all suffer. We will all have to explain to our daughters and granddaughters why we didn't fight harder for them.

Critically, there is also the issue of violence against women. It is a moral outrage that women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner related physical and sexual assaults every single year. When women stand up and tell us the stories behind this number, we must sit down and listen. We must stop speaking over them with advice on how to protect themselves or avoid certain social situations. They shouldn't have to. It is insulting to presume they require lectures on personal safety, but that men don't require lectures on consent. This problem demands a cultural shift, and we must be its purveyors.

There is the issue of college affordability. A related issue is access to and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, programs and—of equal importance—encouragement to join them. Women need to be better represented in positions of power.

These and other issues are what is at stake. These and other issues are why

we recognize Women's History Month: to remind ourselves and each other that women helped build this Nation and this world. We need to remind ourselves that women are therefore entitled to equal representation in it and equal access to its opportunities. We need to remind ourselves that women deserve equal respect and equal protection under the law and that women's rights are human rights. We all prosper when we fight to protect them.

Toward these ends, I have led the charge in Congress to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Many Americans would be shocked to learn that the Constitution still lacks a provision ensuring gender equality. That is wrong, but it is fixable. I have introduced S.J. Res. 5, legislation to remove the deadline for States to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which would pave the way for its formal adoption. Nevada recently passed the Equal Rights Amendment, leaving us just two States shy of success.

The Equal Rights Amendment is only slightly longer than two tweets, but its ratification would finally give women full and equal protection under the Constitution. It reads as follows:

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

It is that simple, and it is both necessary and past time to adopt it.

When Congress passed the ERA in 1972, it provided that the measure had to be ratified by three-fourths of the States, 38 States, within 7 years. The original deadline was later extended to 10 years by a joint resolution enacted by Congress. Ultimately, 35 States ratified the ERA by the time the revised deadline expired, leaving advocates a little short.

Article V of the Constitution contains no time limits for ratification of constitutional amendments. In fact, in 1992, the 27th Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting immediate congressional pay raises was ratified after 203 years. The Senate could pass my legislation removing the 10-year deadline right now. I strongly encourage the majority leader to bring S.J. Res. 5 up for a vote as soon as possible. American women deserve to know that their most fundamental rights are explicitly protected by our nation's most venerated document.

I have often said that how a nation treats its women is a good barometer of that nation's potential for success as a whole. I hold the United States of America to that standard. Every day, I weigh the successes and failures we have had along the path toward fair treatment and gender equality, and I assess ways Congress can facilitate more successes. Every day, I reevaluate how best to fight for the Equal Rights Amendment, how best to protect reproductive rights, how best to fight for

paid family leave and affordable higher education and greater representation in this very Chamber.

I invite every Senator to do the same, both because those are the right battles and because fighting them protects gender equality progress that has been so hard-won by the women of this Nation. We must not allow those victories to be reversed. We must keep progressing.

This Women's History Month, I am reminded of what the poet G.D. Anderson once said: "Feminism is not about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." Let us remember it is precisely that strength that has propelled our world forward. It is precisely that strength that serves as the foundation of so many of this country's successes, and it is precisely that strength we must remember and meet with our own, when women's rights are under siege.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 25TH AMENDMENT AND TRIBUTE TO BIRCH BAYH

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 25th Amendment and recognize one of my predecessors from Indiana in the U.S. Senate, Birch Bayh. Birch Bayh represented Indiana for three terms in the Senate, from 1963 to 1981. Senator Bayh was an accomplished lawyer, legislator, and the only non-Founding Father to draft two amendments to the U.S. Constitution that were enacted.

February 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution. The 25th Amendment created an orderly transition of power in the case of death or disability of the President and a method of selecting a Vice President when a vacancy occurs in that office. Before its passage, our Nation experienced several occasions when the President was unable to perform his powers and duties, with no constitutional provision for temporary transfer of these powers to the Vice President. The amendment was first relied upon following the resignations of Vice President Spiro Agnew and President Richard Nixon. It also provided the basis for President Ronald Reagan to temporarily pass his duties to Vice President George H. Bush when President Reagan underwent surgery.

While we all hope not to have to use the 25th Amendment, having an established process that continues to guide administrations faced with unexpected events is essential for any functional democracy. Senator Bayh played a key leadership role in the Senate by drafting this constitutional amendment and ensuring all necessary steps were taken for its ratification in 1967.

Senator Bayh also drafted the 26th Amendment, which changed the voting age from 21 to 18. Its impetus was the

passage of amendments to the Voting Rights Act in 1970 that set 18 as the minimum voting age for both Federal and State elections. When the Supreme Court ruled in *Oregon v. Mitchell* that the law applied only to Federal, not State elections, Congress adopted the 26th Amendment. Just over 3 months later, on July 1, 1971, three-fourths of the States had ratified the amendment, making it the quickest amendment ever to be adopted.

In addition to these two constitutional amendments, Senator Bayh wrote the landmark title IX to the Higher Education Act, which mandates equal opportunities for women students and faculty. Senator Bayh was also an architect of the Juvenile Justice Act of 1974, which requires the separation of juvenile offenders from adult prison populations, and he played a vital role in the drafting and passage of the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Since leaving the Senate in 1980, Senator Bayh has committed himself to leadership in civic policy. He has served as chairman of the University of Virginia's Miller Center Commission on Presidential Disability and the 25th Amendment and as a member of the center's Commission on Federal Judicial Selection. He is also founding chairman of the National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence, a non-profit, first-of-its-kind organization dedicated to studying prejudice and hate crimes in America.

Senator Bayh, as you and your wife, Kitty, enjoy your retirement, the contributions you have made to our country endure. The indelible mark you have made on the orderly transition of power and preservation of justice is still celebrated with pride today as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 25th Amendment. Recently, the American Bar Association honored you with a Presidential citation for exhibiting the highest standards of public service as a lawyer and for extraordinary leadership on issues of law and justice, including the 25th Amendment. You are richly deserving of these accolades, as well as the gratitude of this Senate and the American people, for your lifetime of service.

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL HERBERT "HAWK" CARLISLE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to offer my congratulations to Gen. Herbert "Hawk" Carlisle on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force this month.

Over four decades of distinguished service, from the Air Force Academy to the Pentagon to leadership in two four-star commands, General Carlisle has been instrumental in advancing the capabilities of our Air Force and improving the lives of its most precious asset—its airmen.

As commander of Pacific Air Forces, General Carlisle was responsible for Air Force activities spanning more than

half the globe, leading 45,000 airmen across the Pacific from Hawaii and Alaska to Japan and Korea. He provided critical strategic leadership as the United States worked to strengthen its commitment to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region at time of increasing challenge.

Under General Carlisle's leadership, the airmen of Air Combat Command pressed the fight against America's adversaries, delivering devastating effects against violent extremism in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. General Carlisle's determination and hard work were essential to bringing the Air Force's F-35A Joint Strike Fighter to initial operational capability—no small achievement for a long-delayed and troubled program, yet one that is so critical for sustaining America's military dominance into the future.

I had the pleasure of getting to know General Carlisle when he served as director of the Air Force's Legislative Liaison Office. It was then that I came to appreciate his honesty and candor. Those of us tasked with the oversight of the Department of Defense and our Armed Forces rely upon the candor of our senior military leaders. In my interactions with General Carlisle in various positions through the years, whether in private meetings or in public testimony, I could always count on General Carlisle to provide his best military advice on critical defense matters affecting the Air Force and our Nation. I hope his successors will follow in that same spirit of transparency and collaboration. I also hope that my colleagues and I will continue to benefit from General Carlisle's wise counsel.

Once again, I want to express my sincere thanks to General Carlisle for his distinguished service to our country and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement. I wish General Carlisle and his family all the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:15 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 654. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a plan for the purchase and installation of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1117. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster.

H.R. 1214. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a program to use simplified procedures to issue public assistance for certain projects under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.